

SCS
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November 8, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

I telephoned Miss Virginia James, EE, this morning to discover whether there was any action the Department could usefully take regarding the four American individuals mentioned in Despatch No. 24 of October 21 from Strasbourg, who allegedly are being held in Soviet prisons. We agreed that since three of the men mentioned are described as American soldiers and since the Department of the Army and office of the Secretary of Defense each had received four copies of this Despatch, it might be expected that their own service would take some steps in the interests of their personnel. I told her that while our interest in the military personnel might take the form of consulting with the Department of the Army, our primary interest probably should be in the civilian described as Jack Watson in the Despatch. We both agreed that since the Consulate's communication presented this information as of very dubious character, it was difficult to know what type of action the Department could appropriately take. I suggested that Miss James seek to learn whether a despatch had been received on the subject from Barcelona, where the mother of the reporting refugee presumably lives, and which had been marked down to receive a copy of the referenced Despatch. Miss James promised to let me know as soon as she could place her hands on the Barcelona message.

11/26 - Despatch from Barcelona states
no such address existed there, &
no trace of a Sawicki there. Miss
James concerning this in EE &
will call me.
JH

1-6-58 - In view of result Barcelona investigation
and action of Sawicki himself, no
further steps appear warranted.
File JH

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FW 611.61241/10-2157

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